(c) the reasons for poor performance of the Super Bazar; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the affairs of the Super Bazar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The details of loan and subsidy provided to Super Bazar, Delhi during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, financial assistance received during 1993-94 has been fully utilised by them. Out of release of Rs. 12 lakhs made during 1994-95, only an amount of Rs. 8.67 lakhs have been utilised by them while the assistance released during 1995-96 is yet to be utilised by the Super Bazar, Delhi.

(c) and (d) The Super Bazar, Delhi is an autonomous co-operative society having its own Board of Directiors to manage its affairs. The sales of the Super Bazar, Delhi has been steadily going up during the last five years and it is in profit.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	Loan	Subsidy	Total
1993-94			
Renovation of 26 branches	2.00	3.20	5.20
Installation of two Generator sets	4.50	0.80	5.30
Purchase of Delivery Van	1.50	–	1.50
	8.00	4.00	12.00
1994-95			
For computerisation of Accounts/other areas	4.00	2.50	6.5
Renovation/modification	4.00	1.50	5.50
	8.00	4.00	12.00
1995-96			
For opening of 10 branches	2.50	2.00	4.50
Renovation/modification of 10 branches	4.00	1.00	5.00
Computerisation/installation of cash Registrex Machines	9.50	5.00	14.50
	16.00	8.00	24.00

Demand and Supply of Essential Commodities

619. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities like edible oil, wheat, rice and sugar in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up this gap ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) There is no gap between demand and supply of commodities like rice and sugar in the country. There was a decline in wheat production during 1996-97 to the tune of about 3 million tonnes. The gap between demand and supply of edible oils for 1996-97 is estimated around 9 lakh tonnes.

(b) In order to meet the decline in the production of wheat, action has been initiated to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat. To meet the requirements of edible oil, imports are allowed under Open General Licence and through State Trading Corporation for distribution through the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

Investment in Fertilizer Industry

620. SHRI SOHANBEER : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any long term policy in order to make the Fertilizer Industry profitable and favourable for investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Industrialists are not interested in making investment in the fertilizer industry because of the wrong policy of the Government; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to the change their policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee have been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad based, scientific and transparent methodology. The Committee is required to submit its report within 6 months. The terms of reference of the Committee include review of the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to the fertilizer industry and issues relating to reasonableness of

return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation, etc.

(c) Considering the constraints of the availability of fertilizer raw materials and feedstocks, the rate of investment in the fertilizer sector is not unsatisfactory. There has been a significant effort of capacity addition over the last few years and a number of investment initiatives is on the anvil.

(d) The issue of amelioration of the investment climate for the fertilizer industry has been referred to the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee.

[English]

Border Area Development Project

621. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to allocate more funds for the border roads and border area development pojects for the district of Nadia and other districts of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Lump-sum grants are given annually to the State Government by the Planning Commission. The schemes undertaken in the various border blocks are decided by a Screening Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State.

[Translation]

Declaration of Himachal as Tribal Region

622. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand to declare Himachal Pradesh as the Tribal Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir, there is no demand to declare Himachal Pradesh as the Tribal Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds to Orissa for Drought

623. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet provided the additional financial assistance to Orissa to mitigate the acute drought conditions there;

(b) whether the Central Government have also not taken any decision with regard to the State Government's demand of Rs. 371 crore to launch intensive work in the brought hit areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided to the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 36.76 crores for 1996-97 has already been released to the Government of Orissa. The State Government have submitted a Memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 577.70 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of drought conditions, including Rs. 371.00 crores for Employment Generation Programmes. On the basis of the report of a Central Team which visited the State to assess the situation, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) considered the request of the State Government for additional assistance. The NCRC has sought certain clarifications from the State Government about the requirements of additional Employment Generation in the drought affected areas. In the meantime, an amount of Rs. 13.00 crores has been released to the State Government from the NFCR, in addition to Rs. 106.34 crores as the second instalment of funds under the Employment Gereration Programmes.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Rice Procurement in Andhara Pradesh

624. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been able to procure its target of rice, raw rice and boiled rice from the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total rice of the three different qualities procured by the Food Corporation of India so far;

(c) if so, whether it has been reported that despite the FCI agents, the farmers have been directly selling paddy to millers;

(d) if so, whether the FCI had opened a number of additional purchase centres in the East and West of Godavari but have not been able to reach out to the villages; and